

To Whom It May Concern:

I agree with request from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC), calling for the FCC to delete Element 1 and give Technician Plus privileges to current Technician licensees. In addition, the FCC should immediately allow volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) to discontinue administering Element 1 as a requirement for licensure as soon as possible.

While Morse Code is a useful and viable form of communication that many amateurs still enjoy, it is simply one of many modes available under the Amateur Radio umbrella. Because Morse Code does not appeal to all operators, it is no more fair or equitable to require proficiency in this mode than in any other. Many operators are forced to be proficient in this mode for testing and immediately abandon it afterward.

In my opinion, license tests should evaluate knowledge of the theory required to operate at a desired license class, not proficiency in any specific mode. One of the most desirable aspects of Amateur Radio is the operator's discretion and freedom to follow his interests and explore many different communications modes within his class of license--all without undue limitation. In that light, and because proficiency need not be demonstrated in other modes in order to obtain a license, I feel that Morse Code should not be a requirement for Amateur Radio licensure.

Regards,

Dennis Gittens, KD5PGD